JULY, 1972

THE NUMISMATIC MESSENGER

VOL. 2 NO. 7

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LAST MONTH'S TITLE PAGE ILLUSTRATION:

A MODERN MASTERPIECE

The coin illustrated above, and on the title page of last month's *Numismatic Messenger* is a common 20th Century piece. Yet it is unusual in several respects. It is, perhaps, the most successful design in the modern French coinage - a series notable for the work of the great neo-classical artists of the last half of the 19th Century. Introduced as a coin design in 1898, it was one of the last works to be done by Jean-Baptiste Daniel-Dupuis before his tragic death the following year.

The artistic achievement of Daniel-Dupuis with this coin is superlative. The design has balance, it is majestic and yet not over-crowded, and it combines classical art with the practical requirements of 20th Century coin production techniques.

Leonard Forrer stated, in the *Numismatic Circular* for the year 1898 (Col. 2677), "M. Daniel Dupuy (sic) has cut the dies of the new bronze 10 and 5 centimes. On the obv. of these coins we see a bust of the French Republic, wearing a wreathed Phrygian bonnet, in profile to r., with the legend: REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE, and the date. The rev. displays France seated to l., holding a sprig of olive and a flag in the folds of which she shelters a child representing the Genius of Labour. Around is the motto: LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE, and on a cartouche, the indication of value."

Actually, Daniel-Dupuis produced the dies for all of the bronze coinage, 1, 2, 5, and 10 Centimes, in 1898. More than

120 million 10 Centime pieces were struck before the design was retired in 1921. All but a few pieces of 1916 were struck at Paris, as can be seen by the mint marks cornucopia (placed just before the word LIBERTE) and flaming torch (following FRATERNITE).

Jean-Baptiste Daniel-Dupuis, born at Blois on 15th February, 1849, died at Paris, 14th November, 1899. He achieved success early as an artist, and throughout his career produced outstanding works in the neo-classical style of the modern French school.

The artist's death was described by Leonard Forrer in the *Numismatic Circular* of January, 1900 (Col. 3735), "On the 14th November last, whilst M. Daniel-Dupuis was asleep, his wife shot him dead with a revolver, and then took her own life with a second bullet from the same weapon."

B.J. Castenholz

EUROPEAN COINS ENCOUNTERED IN TURKEY (Asia Minor)

One of our readers in Nebraska has sent an excerpt from a letter he recently received from an Australian teacher in Izmir (Smyrna).

"As for European silver, I live in hopes of one day seeing a good English (early) coin for we did enough trade with the East in the 17th & 18th centuries, but no - all up and down the coast - from Bursa to Antioch, the European silver is 90% that of Sigismund III of Poland, Leopold the Hogmouth of Austria, Philip V of Spain or that of Ragusa (Dubrovnik). Odd, is it not, that what there is should be so limited in range. The 1780 Maria Theresa thalers (and countless copies) are everywhere, but that is still being minted, of course. A silver Italian (hammered) coin appears only once or twice a year (and this is decidedly strange when one remembers the extent of their trade and possessions here) and I have seen only one 13th century Serbian gros. The Persian Sassanian AR drachms can be found from time to time and purchased fairly reasonably for LT50 each. ($ = LT14)." R.P.

A TRANSITION COIN OF MUSTAFA III

by
Bill Holberton

The coin illustrated below is a recently discovered type of 10 para coin of Mustafa III. What makes it unusual is the mint name, style, and the regnal year 1. Prior to the reign of Mustafa III, 1757 AD (1171 AH), only the accession year of the ruler was inscribed on the coins of the Constantinople mint. There was a "mark" where the regnal year was finally located. Since the meaning of the "mark" has not yet been determined, it is impossible to ascertain exactly when a coin of one of the sultans who ruled prior to Mustafa III was struck.

It is with Mustafa III that the regnal year was initially inscribed on the coins. This change took place sometime during the first year of his reign since his coins exist with both the old style of "mark" inscription and with the regnal year 1. However, there was another change, that of the mint name. Constantinople was changed to Islambul.

Until the discovery of this coin, in a Middle Eastern country, this writer knew only of two types of Mustafa III coins, the type with "mark" and mint name of Constantinople, and the later type with regnal year and mint name of Islambul. Nuri Pere (ref. 1) lists the coin with "mark" and mint name of Constantinople as NP-642. The later type is listed as NP-637.

When obtaining this coin the writer thought that he was acquiring NP-642, since the reverse was so dirty that the place where the "mark" should be was covered and not discernable. Not having a copy of the book with me at the time and trusting to memory, I was also unaware that the obverse was different from the NP-642 type — the difference being the border of large dots. This type of border was used on the later coins with mint name of Islambul and the regnal year. The coin was purchased in a lot of coins and was not represented as being different than any other coin of the period.

After returning home from my trip I prepared to clean the coin so as to determine the mark on the reverse.* I made all sorts of predictions as to what the mark would be. What a surprise to see the number 1 appear when the coin was clean! Closer inspection now revealed the border of dots on both obverse and reverse, (this differs from the earlier coins). And the script on the reverse is in the style of the gold coins of the period (see NP-616).

It appears that this is a transition piece from the earlier style to the more final type of 10 para coin of Mustafa III. The coin is unlisted in Craig (ref. 2). The earlier style is listed in Craig as C-35 and while no mention is made of the regnal year, this listing was made from Nuri Pere's book and represents the "mark" type and not the regnal year listing. The later style coin is listed as C-43.

The specifics of the coin are:

> Mustafa III, 1171 AH, year 1 (1757 AD), 10 para, Constantinople mint name, weight of 5.33 grams and diameter of 25 millimeters.

References:

1) *Osmanlilarda Madeni Paralar* by Nuri Pere, Istanbul, 1968.
2) *Coins of the World* by W.D. Craig, Western Publishing Co., Racine, Wisconsin, 1971 (2nd edition).

* Many of the coins from the Near and Middle East are from hoards and have, therefore, been in contact with the soil for long periods of time. Cleaning is necessary for identification in many cases. Done by an expert, only the encrustations and corrosion are removed. No abbrasives are used.

THE GUANAJUATO 8 ESCUDOS OVERDATE OF 1838

The 8 escudo piece of the Guanajuato Mint illustrated above is listed by T.V. Buttrey and Clyde Hubbard in *A Guide Book of Mexican Coins, 1822 to Date*, (2nd Ed., 1971). However, as no illustration is given in the book we provide one here.

Several features of the coin are worthy of mention. As is quite commonly the case with Latin American coins, the 8s have a nick in the upper left portion of the top loop. This is evident in the value as well as the first 8 in the date. However, the last digit in the date is quite different, and obviously not made from the same punch as the other 8s.

A die break also occurs through the last digit of the date, causing a small segment of the die below the date to break away. Apparently the stresses due to the punching of the second 8 over the 7 resulted in the break.

B.J. Castenholz

AN OVERDATED 8 SCUDOS OF ARGENTINA

While cataloguing an extensive collection of gold coins of the world, recently, this writer came across the above illustrated 8 scudos of Argentina, with a rather clear overdate 1832 over 1. The 1 can be seen below the 2, both in the loop and in the angle between the diagonal downstroke and the base. The coin is otherwise of the normal type for the period, and bears the assayer's initial P.

B.J. Castenholz

ARTICLES FOR THE MESSENGER

Articles on numismatics or on numismatic literature are required for publication in the Messenger. Any article submitted will be carefully considered.

A SUSPICIOUS 20 PESOS OF HONDURAS

The 20 Peso gold piece of Honduras illustrated here would be a most significant coin if genuine. Unfortunately it is under grave suspicion.

The coin appears to be of good quality gold, 27.259 grams in weight, and of a fabric possibly from badly rusted dies which have been polished in the field (the high areas of the dies) to remove damage.

The date 1908 is most curious. R.S. Yeoman, in *A Catalog of Modern World Coins*, (9th Ed., 1970), and R. Friedberg in *Gold Coins of the World*, (3rd Ed., 1971), list only the date 1888. Friedberg states "Most coins have overstruck dates." Presumably, this means that the date listing given is of the

final dates, even though three of the five listings which follow are of coins issued in only one year.

It is the edge which casts the strongest doubts on the coin's legitimacy - it is very unevenly milled. The vertical grooves are not all properly related to each other. The profile of the grooves is also improper, being somewhat like a saw-tooth in form.

It is this writer's opinion that the coin is a concoction, and, should another specimen similar to this appear, it should be considered with the greatest caution.

B.J. Castenholz

AN UNLISTED DATE OF HYDERABAD

Pictured above is a silver half-rupee of Hyderabad, dated 1322 AH (1904 AD). The coin was issued under the rule of Mir Mahbob Ali Khan II who ruled Hyderabad from 1868 to 1911 AD (1286 to 1329 AH). The coin is listed in Yeoman's *Modern World Coins* (10th edition) as Y-20. However, the listing does not include this date. Yeoman lists dates of 1328 and 1329 AH only.

The specifics of the coin are:

AR half-rupee, 1322 AH, weight of 5.51 grams and diameter of 25 millimeters.

Bill Holberton

A 'VARIETY' OF ENGLISH SIXPENCE OF CHARLES I, 1626

The coin pictured above is a sixpence of Charles I, dated 1626, struck at the Tower Mint with initial mark Cross Calvary, 2nd bust, Seaby No. 2141, North No. 2236, type 1A. However, note that the obverse legend reads: CAROLV:D:G:MAGG:BRI: FRA:ET:HI:REX. Both the S of CAROLVS and the B of HIB are missing and there is an extra G in MAG.

At first thought, the coin appeared to be from a very carelessly executed die - and one heretofore unreported. But careful examination revealed this to be a striking error (no pun intended), rather than an error of engraving. Note that the double Gs appear almost opposite the missing B of HIB. A double striking, first to one side, then to the other, with a rotation of 5 to 10 degrees, would account for the missing B and the additional G. Now, actually three different partial impressions were made, causing the S of CAROLVS to also disappear. There are three tell-tale clues which warrant this conclusion: 1) The coin is very well struck up except in three areas, each adjacent to an 'error'; 2) Notice the double striking of the portrait below the mouth, and of the upper left portion of the V in the value, indicating rotation between strikings; and 3) The beaded border, although appearing continuous between HI and REX, is obviously not continuous at the other two areas of concern.

The coin is in the possession of Douglas G. Borden of Rochester, New York. He has kindly allowed its publication here.

B.J. Castenholz

NEW BOOK NOTICES

ALMANZAR, ALCEDO. *Latin American Numismatic Bibliography (including the Caribbean).* San Antonio, 1972. 42 pp., Card covers. $1.00.

To the researcher and even the occasional student, there is no more important tool than the bibliography. There are over 500 listings, including Mexico and Brazil, and the arrangement is very good. Of particular interest to the book collector are the listings of various editions of the same book. All of the listings of Clain-Stefanelli and P.O. Sigler are included, in addition to many new entries.

REMICK, JAROME H. and ALMANZAR, ALCEDO. *The Coinage of the Dominican Republic.* 2nd edition, 1972. 40 pp., illustrations in text. Card covers. $2.50.

Here is a very important addition to the literature on Latin American coinages. The coinage of the Dominican Republic, from 1848 to date, is listed, priced, and described. Mintage figures are given, and pertinent notes such as condition-rarity relationships are included. Of particular importance are the nine pages devoted to the numismatic history of the Republic. The illustrations are superb! And the book is very neatly done.

YEOMAN, R.S. *A Guide Book of United States Coins, 26th Edition, 1973.* Racine, 1972. 256 pp., illustrations throughout text. Hard bound. $2.50.

It is "Red Book" time again, and as usually the case, many price changes have occurred since the last edition. What is even more obviously different, at first look, is the greater attention given to varieties, especially the half dollars. Many new pictures, and of a very high quality, are added. Overdates, especially, are now well illustrated.

Of particular significance, especially with the U.S. Government preparing to sell a large number of silver dollars of the Morgan type, is a new chapter entitled "The Morgan Dollar Series, A Market Study." Nine pages are devoted to the pricing of these dollars, showing the figures for each date and mintmark as they appeared in each previous edition of the "Red Book."

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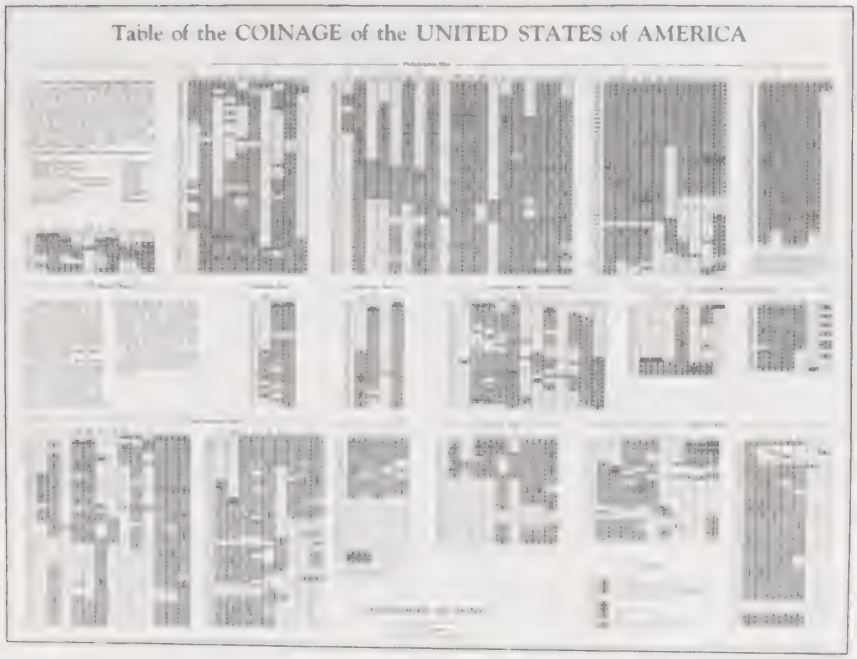

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GENERAL

COHEN, HENRI. **DESCRIPTION HISTORIQUE DES MONNAIES FRAPPEES SOUS L'EMPIRE ROMAIN communement appelees Medailles Imperiales.** London-Paris, 1880-1892, reprinted by Forni, 1970. 8 volumes + a dictionary of terms. Over 4000 pp., line drawings throughout the text. Cloth bound. $163.50

When first published, Cohen immediately became the standard reference for coins of the Roman Empire. Its recent republication, by at least two different firms, indicates the continuing demand for the work by the student, and by the collector. Cohen numbers are still commonly used for the description of Roman Imperial issues.

ISENBECK, JULIUS. **DAS NASSAUISCHE MUNZWESEN.** 1970. 174 pp., 15 plates. Cloth bound. $21.00

The coinage of the Duchy of Nassau, from the earliest pieces of the 12th century to Adolph's death in 1866. Text in German.

von SCHROTTER, FRIEDRICH F. **DAS PREUSSISCHE MUNZWESEN im 18 Jahrhundert.** 212 pp., 40 plates. Cloth. $27.50

A catalogue of the coinages of Friedrich II, Friedrich Wilhelm II, and Friedrich Wilhelm, to the year 1806. Large format, with superb illustrations. Text in German.

THOMPSON, R.D. **COINAGE OF KWANGTUNG CHINA.** Hong Kong, 1971. 47 pp., many illustrations. Card covers. $2.00

A concise listing of all of the coins known to have been minted in Kwangtung, along with an historical background.

SECOND-HAND BOOKS

BRITISH NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

First Series, Complete. Vol. I - X, 1904 - 1913.	$195.00
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Vol. IV, 1907	$20.00
Vol. V, 1908	$20.00

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COLLECTING AND HOBBIES with Special Reference to Coin, Medal and Paper Money Collecting. New York, 1917. 63 pp., illustrated. Cloth. Has suffered some water damage. $1.50

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——— COINS OF THE WORLD, Twentieth Century Issues. 5th ed., 1955. 326 pp., illustrations. Cloth. $7.50

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1947 (12th) edition. $8.00
1949 (13th) edition. $8.00
1950 (14th) edition. $8.00
1951 (15th) edition. $8.00

SCHULMAN, HANS M.F. and HOLZER, H.W. **THE COIN COLLECTORS' ALMANAC.** New York, 1946. 372 pp. Cloth. $12.50

This general handbook for collectors discusses a broad range of numismatics.

SYDENHAM, E.A. **"Problems of the Early Roman Denarius."** Reprinted from THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATIC CONGRESS, 1936. 14 pp. Paper covers. $1.00

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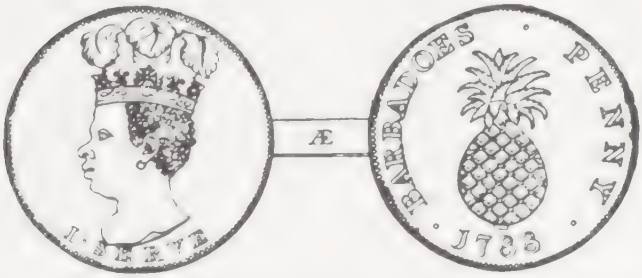

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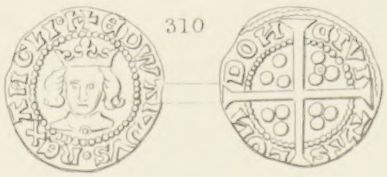
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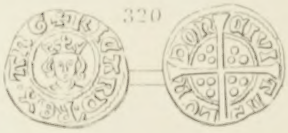
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